Secrets. IV-57—100,000—22-5-43.

Development (1945 47) Department.

SERIES.

G.O. No. 3987

Dated 29-7-47

[Despatch Abstract.]

Agriculture - Grow More Food - Five Year Plan - Scheme for the purchase of 100 tractors and allied equipments - Purchase of Diesel oil tractors [illegible].

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

From
Sri B.M. Lakshmipathy, B.E.,M.E.,M.R.A.S.E.
Joint Director of Agriculture,
11/12, North Beach Road, Madras/- 4.

To
The Secretary to Government
Development Department,
Fort St. George.
Madras.

No.T.I.383/48. Dated the 24th May 1948.

Sir,

Sub: Agriculture - Grow More Food - Five Year Plan - Scheme No.2 (Part) - Scheme for the purchase of 100 tractors and allied implements etc.
Ref: Development Department G.O.NO.1597 dated 31st March 1948.

. . .

At the end of para two of the above referred to Government Order, it has been stated that only crude oil tractors should be purchased in future.

2. There is only one make of tractor at present that is designed to operate on crude oil and that is the Marshall Diesel Tractor. I have, since the receipt of the above order, made exhaustive enquiries about this tractor with a view to placing firm orders for the same. These enquiries were not confined merely to the trade but also extended to the actual previous owners of such machines and also to the technical side.

3. Even though these Marshall tractors are designed to work on crude oil which is cheeper than either high speed diesel fuel or Kerosene and is therefore less costly for running they have not become popular either in this country, or in the country of production itself, i.e. Great Britain. One of the factors that might probably be attributed to its lack of popularity is the initial cost. The price of a Marshall tractor amounts to just over, Rs,10,000/- against an equivalent horse power kerosene or high speed diesel tractor whose cost is nearly Rs.7,500. Next to price comes the latest advances in design. Marshall tractors are not provided with electric starters unlike the other American made units ~~not provided with electric~~ which are all fited with such quick and easy electric starting fittings. In this regard the Marshall crude oil tractor is behind times.

4. In the case of the Marshall tractor the engine is a single cylinder unit and the cylinder block is a solid one without any replaceable liners. If after some time and wear the piston and its rings have to be renewed the entire cylinder block will have to be changed for fitting a standard sized piston. Such replacements will prove very expensive and add disproportionately to the periodical repairs and renewals. The annual maintenance charges will thus be increased. Whereas in the case of all the American made machines, the engines are fitted with renewable cylinder linders which makes repairs and renewals a simple and minor matter at comparatively small expense.

5. Since the engine is a single cylinder block,

the vibrations are said to be excessive and puts a severe strain on the driver during the driving period. This discomfort will decrease the operational efficiency and more frequent changes of drivers will become necessary during the working period of the day.

6. Mr.C.S. Sridharan who has recently returned from England after his practical training at Messrs. Marchall's Gainsborough Works states that only limited numbers of these machines are at present produced by the manufacturers and that their spare parts and after sales servicing organisation has yet to be set both for internal and oversees customers. According to Mr. Sridharan it is either the International or the Massey Harris machines that are popular and in increased use in England itself. It might not be out of place here if I mention that both these types are manufactured on a world distribution and have both importing and sales organisations all round the globe. The supplies made from the Government of India bulk imports to the Provincial and States Agricultural Departments have so far been either of International or of Massey Harris make.

7. Another assistant from the Department who recently visited the Government of India Ministry of Agriculture Central Tractor Workshops Organisation in New Delhi reports that none of these Marshall tractors are to be seen therein.

8. ~~Owing~~ Coming to the enquiries made from the few pre-war owners of these units except one, the others report that the general performance and operational efficiency of these were not satisfactory. This opinion is naturally reflected in the general demand position from the cultivating public who have not so far taken freely or fully to these tractors unlike the other makes for which there is great demand and whose popularity is increasing day by day.

9. The general impression is that a crude oil tractor is very much cheaper than, either the high speed diesels or the kerosene tractors. There is economy only in the value of the fuel oil but in all other regards the expenditure is either the same or even slightly higher than the crude oil engine figures and this is more so when repairs and renewals are taken into account. Unlike the American machines spares, these Marshall's spares are more costly and will swell the repairs and maintenance bills.

10. Marshalls have only wheel types and do not produce any of the track type machines. Therefore for the caterpillar models only high speed diesel tractors or kerosene tractors are available in the market. No implements at all are manufactured by Marshalls with their tractors and for these again one has to depend on the imports from the U.S.A. Manufacturers in the United States are not eager to supply only part equipment minus the machines and deliveries of ploughs and implements are worse than in respect of tractors themselves.

11. A very important factor is that all the Departmental tractors wherever suitable are proposed to be equipped with bull dozers, tilt dozers ~~of~~ and traxcavators for levelling and bunding operations. There is a daily increasing demand from agriculturists ~~operations. There is a daily increasing demand from agriculturists~~ for such mechanical aids for regrading and reconstructing the badly eroded fields and protecting the soil depleted lands. This is a very important and essential assistance both for agri-

Agricultural production and land protection. Such attachments cannot be fitted on to any of the crude oil tractors made by Marshalls. It will naturally mean maintenance of more units for levelling and bunding works as these Marshall units can be used only for ploughing and harrowing operations on the fields.

12. Taking all the above facts into careful account and the very limited utility of the Marshall tractors which, at the present moment, are the only crude oil tractors in the market, it does not yet appear opportune to order for these crude oil tractors with restricted utility. Considering all the other prevailing conditions and the universal use to which the American tractors can be and are being put to advantageously in this Province and also in other parts of the country, I am of the opinion that the purchase of either high speed diesel or Kerosene tractors be made in respect of the Departmental requirements. I now request Government's instructions in the matter.

sSd. x x x
Joint Director of Agriculture.

/True Copy/

Memo. No. 59896 A IV/48-2, dated 26-7-1948.

Sub: Agriculture - Grow More Food - Five Year Plan Scheme for the purchase of 100 tractors and allied - equipments - Instructions issued.

Ref: G.O.MS.NO.1597, Development, dated 31-3-48. From the Joint Director of Agriculture, Letter No. T.I.383/48, dated 24-5-48.

In para 2 of the G.O. cited the Director of Agriculture was instructed to purchase only crude oil tractors in future. In the circumstances stated in the letter from the Joint Director of Agriculture cited the Government direct that only diesel oil tractors be purchased instead of the crude oil tractors. They consider that Kerosene oil tractors should not be purchased as their running cost is high.

Sd. x x x
26-7-48.

To the Joint Director of Agriculture.
To the Accountant General.

/True Copy/

Superintendent,
8-9-1953,
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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